

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TUNIS 05941 151410Z

43

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 A-01 OPR-02 SY-10 SSO-00

NSCE-00 CCO-00 OC-06 MC-02 AID-20 NEA-10 DRC-01

USSS-00 /206 W

----- 106048

R 151305Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3449

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY RABAT

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 5941

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TS, XF

SUBJECT: CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS IN TUNISIA

REF: TUNIS 5924 AND PREVIOUS

1. NO CHANGE IN SITUATION IN TUNIS. AMERICAN COMMUNITY REMAINS CALM ALTHOUGH THERE IS SOME APPREHENSION RE POSSIBLE EFFECTS LOCALLY OF MOUNTING ACCOUNTS OF U.S. RESUPPLY OF ARMS TO ISRAEL. THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS OF FOREIGNERS BEING SPAT AT IN DOWNTOWN TUNIS. E&E COMMAND UNIT CONTINUING TO MEET DAILY.

2. PRESS OF OCT 14 GAVE EXTENSIVE COVERAGE TO NEWS THAT U.S. PARTICIPATING ON ISRAELI SIDE AGAINST ARABS. PARTICULAR ATTENTION GIVEN TO SYRIAN REPORT OF DOWNING OF AMERICAN PLANE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TUNIS 05941 151410Z

AND CAPTURE OF AMERICAN PILOT. IN ADDITION, PRESS CARRIED

EGYPTIAN PROTEST AGAINST AMERICAN VIOLATION OF EGYPTIAN AIR SPACE. FINALLY, PRESS ALSO FOCUSED ON REPORTS FROM WASHINGTON THAT U.S. INTENDS REPLENISH ISRAELI ARSENAL.

3. THUS FAR, OFFICIAL U.S. DENIAL RE AMERICAN PARTICIPATION IN WAR NOT RPT NOT CARRIED BY LOCAL PRESS. MY STATEMENT, HOWEVER, TO TAP CORRESPONDENT FOLLOWING MY OCT 14 MEETING WITH PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA GIVEN FRONTPAGE PLAY IN ALL OCT 15 ISSUES UNDER HEADING AMERICAN AMBASSADOR SAYS NO AMERICAN MILITARY OR AIRCRAFT TAKING PART IN THE BATTLES". (WE ARE TAKING STEPS TO ASSURE THAT TEXT OF DEPARTMENT'S DENIAL APPEARS IN TOMORROW'S PRESS.) THERE HAS BEEN NO EDITORIAL COMMENT ON THESE DEVELOPMENTS, BUT PRESS CARRIES REPORT OF MEETING OF NEO-DEWTOUR'S POLITICAL BUREAU IN WHICH REQUEST IS MADE OF "CERTAIN STATES TO SUSPEND THEIR AID TO ISRAEL".

4. OTHER FRONTPAGE STORIES IN OCT 15 NEWSPAPERS INCLUDE (A) NEWS OF PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA'S LETTER TO PRESIDENT NIXON AND HIS MEETING WITH ME TO UNDERScore HIS CONCERN ABOUT THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST; (B) AFP REPORT THAT USG NOW IN FAVOR OF "CEASEFIRE IN PLACE"; AND (C) CONTINUED NEWS OF VARIOUS TUNISIAN EXPRESSIONS OF SUPPORT FOR ARAB ARMIES INCLUDING COLLECTION AND SHIPMENT OF BLOOD.

5. PRESS ALSO CARRIES FRONTPAGE TEXT OF OFFICIAL GOT COMMUNIQUE REPORTING TUNISIA'S REESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS WITH JORDAN FOLLOWING NEWS OF PARTICIPATION OF JORDANIAN FORCES "ON THE SIDE OF THE SYRIAN ARMY IN THE BATTLES BEING WAGED AGAINST ISRAELI AGGRESSION". PRESS NOTES "SATISFACTION IN AMMAN" AT THIS MOVE. COMMENT: WE PUZZLED BY DIPLOMATIC MODALITIES INVOLVED IN TUNISIAN RESUMPTION INASMUCH AS IT WAS JORDAN WHICH BROKE WITH TUNISIA.

6. FINALLY, LOCAL PRESS PRINTS TUNISIAN GOVERNMENT "CLARIFICATION" CONCERNING THE BIZERTE NAVAL BASE IN RESPONSE TO AN APPEAL BY THE BAATHI NEWSPAPER AL THAWRA OF BAGHDAD TO THE STATES OF THE MAGHREB "TO LIQUIDATE AMERICAN BASES INSTALLED ON THEIR TERRITORIES PARTICULARLY ON OF WHICH IS LOCATED IN BIZERTE". CLARIFICATION UNDERScores THE FALLACIOUSNESS OF THESE REPORTS AND NOTES THAT IT COMES ON EVE OF CELEBRATION OF EVACUATION
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 TUNIS 05941 151410Z

OF BIZERTE BY FOREIGN TROOPS. CLARIFICATION CONCLUDES THAT BIZERTE WAS NEVER AN AMERICAN BASE AND THAT IT REMAINS AND WILL ALWAYS REMAIN TUNSIAN SINCE THE TIME THAT IT WAS EFFECTIVELY EVACUATED BY THE COLONIALIST FRENCH ARMY.
SEELYE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, WAR, ANTIAMERICAN, ARMISTICE, DIPLOMATIC NOTES, MILITARY BASES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: willialc
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973TUNIS05941
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS SEELYE
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: TUNIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731031/aaaaawki.tel
Line Count: 112
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: TUNIS 5924 AND PREVIOUS
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: willialc
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 NOV 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26-Nov-2001 by willialc>; APPROVED <27-Nov-2001 by willialc>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS IN TUNISIA
TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, MILI, PINS, TS, XF, US, (NIXON, RICHARD M), (BOURGUIBA, HABIB)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005